

Hopkinton Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2009

(These minutes are unofficial until approved at the next committee meeting)

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM at the Slusser Senior Center.

Members in attendance: Louise Carr, Mark Newton, Valerie Carr, Vernon Miller and Recreation Director Justin La Vigne. The guest attendees were Patrice La Vigne and Merle Dustin.

Approval of 1/27/09 Recreation Committee minutes:

The minutes from 1/27/09 were approved.

Business:

Justin reminded everyone that Town Meeting is Sat., March 14 at 9am. He already spoke with Rick about putting up an unattended table and display board with recreation photos and information. Mark suggested making up a calendar of events to hand out. He also said we should collect emails for the distribution list and Vernon said it might be better to set up a computer for people to type their addresses so we know they're legible. If possible, the Rec Committee should wear Rec shirts. So far, Justin said there hasn't been a whole lot of talk about the recreation budget. Selectman Chris Lawless did a great job at the budget committee open forum. The budget committee is recommending to cut funding for summer camp. There is another warrant article regarding whether rental fees from the Slusser Senior Center should go into a revolving fund for maintenance of the building. There is a warrant article about selling Columbia Hall. A last warrant article is about the recreation van's capital reserve fund and whether return the money to the general fund.

Justin reminded everyone that he emailed the latest Recreation Guide out to the committee and the goal is to update it by the end of the year. Some groups have already made their changes, but most of the updates will be the department's responsibility. Mark said it would be nice to have printed copies. Louise said it was printed twice through the years. Justin said he could try to put it in the 2010 budget, or maybe explore the printing as an Eagle Scout project—to find advertisers and such.

Update on Past/Ongoing/Upcoming Programs:

Red Cross Babysitting Course - First week in March and will be held at Senior Center afterschool. Justin said he looked into a Home Alone Safety Course through the Red Cross for aged 8-11 years and he thinks it would be good. The course will cost \$27/person.

Casino Trip – It was planned for Sun., Feb. 22, but due to an impending snowstorm, the bus company canceled it. There were 32 people scheduled to attend. Justin rescheduled it for March 29 and many of the people signed up again.

Yoga for Everyone – The classes will start March 2 and will take place Mondays and Fridays from 5:30-7:30pm and will run for 10 weeks.

Easter Egg Hunt – Sat., April 4. The Easter Bunny (Vernon) will arrive at 11am and the hunt will start at 11:30. Justin reserved the high school as a backup. If the snow is clear, it will take place at Houston Fields. Justin suggested splitting up the hunt into 3 age groups if at the high school. Justin said he will try to get a high school group to do the face painting again. He already ordered 3,000 eggs.

Lacrosse – Registration is almost complete, but participation so far is lower than last year (45 vs. 85).

Discount Tickets – There are lots of upcoming events for which the Recreation Department have discount tickets.

March 21 Harlem Globetrotters ... there are only 5 tickets left for this

April 10 Stars on Ice \$15

March 22 Monarchs Hockey \$14/ticket includes hot dog or pretzel and drink

June 27 Fischer Cats (baseball) vs. Portland Cdogs \$5/ticket. There will be fireworks at 7pm. And one ticket holder gets to throw out the first pitch!

Justin is also considering getting tickets for the circus if they are reasonable
Red Socks tickets – one game in May and one in Oct. Justin is going to offer these first come first serve in person—must pay to reserve ticket. Also thinking about putting 2 of the Oct tickets aside for the 4th of July raffle.

Movie in the Park

Sat., June 13 – Muppet Movie

Sat., Aug. 15 – Thinking about showing Journey to the Center of the Earth in 3-D.

Justin is going to ask the movie company if we can advertise Rec events on the screen before the movie starts.

Scrapbooking sessions – These events are growing and there are 2 dates scheduled in March.

Baseball Card Show – Scheduled for June 6 – Jim is planning

Beading Program – Ann is planning

British Soccer Camp – So far 20 kids signed up. It will cost the same as last year. Mark mentioned he could sponsor families.

Kimball Pond – Justin is inviting back all the same lifeguards as last year. Will be planning a Family Fun Day with a BBQ, maybe some kayaking

Summer Camp – Will start planning after Town Meeting

4th of July – Will start planning in April

Old Business

Justin mentioned that the schools are no longer advertising all community events. Justin spoke with the individual principals and they are each doing it differently – some including a few Rec events, some just including a link. He is happy they are still doing something, although it would be ideal if they continued to advertise all his events because that has been effective advertising.

Vernon's recreation committee term ends March 14 and the committee asked him to renew. He said yes. Also asked him to be vice chairperson. He said yes.

Mark is still working on diversity program for next year's calendar.

Justin has talked to the lady who does the 3-day, 3-hour cooking with kids program and he is thinking about scheduling it for afterschool

Mark is still planning the cooking for one program and will plan it for after the snowmelt.

We adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin La Vigne